

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 NSC-10 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 EB-03 SIL-01 PRS-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00

RSR-01 /053 W

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R 282100Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2329

INFO AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY GUAETMALA

USCINCSO

S E C R E T MANAGUA 3567

LIMDIS

USCINCSO FOR POLAD

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ECON, ELAB, NU

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR'S MEETING WITH GENERAL SOMOZA

DURING A CONVERSATION WITH GENERAL ANASTASIO SOMOZA ON SATURDAY, AUGUST 25, 1973, HE COMMENTED ON A NUMBER OF SUBJECTS WHICH INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

1. GENERAL SOMOZA SAID THAT COSTA RICAN PRESIDENT FIGUERES HAD CONTACTED HIM AND REQUESTED A PERSONAL MEETING WITH HIM, WHICH HAD BEEN ARRANGED FOR SEPTEMBER 9 AT GENERAL SOMOZA'S FINCA IN COSTA RICA. SOMOZA SAID THAT FIGUERES INDICATED THAT HE WISHED THIS MEETING TO BE KEPT ENTIRELY CONFIDENTIAL, EMPHASIZING THAT FIGUERES WISHED TO HAVE A PRIVATE TALK WITH SOMOZA. SUBSEQUENTLY, FIGUERES CONTACTED SOMOZA AND ASKED IF IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO INCLUDE HONDURAN CHIEF OF STATE, GENERAL LOPEZ, IN THIS MEETING. SOMOZA INDICATED THAT HE, OBVIOUSLY, WOULD HAVE NO OBJECTION TO

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THE PRESENCE OF GENERAL LOPEZ WHO IS A PERSONAL FRIEND, BUT THAT

HE DID NOT WISH TO INITIATE THE INVITATION TO A MEETING, THE SUBJECT OF WHICH WAS UNKNOWN TO HIM. SOMOZA STATES THAT HE HAS NO IDEA WHAT FIGUERES WISHES TO DISCUSS. HE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT IT IS HIS UNDERSTANDING THAT FIGUERES HAS HAD SEVERAL MEETINGS WITH PANAMANIAN GENERAL TORRIJOS RECENTLY, AND THAT INFORMATION HAS REACHED HIM (SOMOZA) THAT FIGUERES IS SHOWING SOME NERVOUSNESS REGARDING THE STABILITY OF HIS REGIME, BUT SOMOZA HASTENED TO ADD THAT WHAT FIGUERES WANTS ONE COULD NOT EVER TELL OR AS TO WHETHER THE PROPOSED CONVERSATION IS OF A REALLY SERIOUS NATURE OR NOT. IN ANY EVENT, THE MEETING WITH FIGUERES IS SET FOR SEPT 9.

2. SOMOZA SAID THAT HE WAS ENCOURAGED BY THE PROGRESS BEING MADE ON THE STRIKE SITUATION IN NICARAGUA, THAT HE PRESENTLY FELT THAT THE LABOR UNREST WITH THE BUS DRIVERS HAD BEEN AVERTED AND THAT HE FORESEES NO DIFFICULTIES IN CONNECTION WITH THE TEACHERS IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE.

3. SOMOZA SAID THAT HE PLANNED A TELEVISED NEWS CONFERENCE ON AUGUST 29, WHICH WOULD COVER ALL FACETS OF RECONSTRUCTION AND WILL ATTEMPT TO SET IN FOCUS THE CURRENT SITUATION IN NICARAGUA. HE INDICATED THAT HE PLANNED, DURING THIS NEWS CONFERENCE, TO ANNOUNCE AN ACROSS THE BOARD WAGE INCREASE TO MEET COST OF LIVING INCREASES FOR GOVERNMENT AND OTHER EMPLOYEES, BUT DUE TO THE BUDGET PLANNING PROCESS, HE WAS HOPEFUL THAT ACROSS THE BOARD ACTION ON THIS COULD BE DEFERRED UNTIL THE FIRST OF JANUARY.

4. SOMOZA SAID THAT HE HAD BEEN ADVISED THAT EL SALVADORIAN PRESIDENT MOLINA WAS CONTEMPLATING THE POSSIBILITY OF A TOUR OF CENTRAL AMERICAN COUNTRIES IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

5. SOMOZA EXPRESSED CONSIDERABLE OPTIMISM REGARDING THE PROGRESS WHICH IS BEING MADE IN THE CLEARING AND REHABILITATION OF MANAGUA. HE SAID HE FELT THAT HIS MOST DIFFICULT PROBLEM WAS THE UNDERSTANDABLE IMPATIENCE OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR TO MOVE SOMEWHAT MORE RAPIDLY THAN IT WAS POSSIBLE TO DEVISE PLANS FOR RECONSTRUCTION IN AN AREA WHERE SO MANY FACTORS, INCLUDING SEISMICAL AND OTHERS, HAVE TO BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT BUT HE WAS HOPEFUL THAT A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THESE CIRCUMSTANCES COULD BE BROUGHT OUT BY A MORE FORCEFUL PRESENTATION OF THE DIFFICULTIES TO THE PEOPLE BY RADIO AND TELEVISION.

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